



The Canal Zone Philatelist



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Whole No.152

Canal Zone 1918 Registration Envelopes *

By Irwin J. Gibbs

The 1904 Canal Treaty with Panama contained an agreement for the Panamanian government to supply stamps and postal stationery to the Zone. Known as the Taft Agreement, it provided that the Canal Zone Postal Service pay to Panama 40% of the face value of stamps and stationery so supplied. Settlement was made quarterly to Panama as supplies were issued to Canal Zone postmasters. This arrangement meant that Panama made a huge profit on the deal, and that the Zone postal authorities only retained 60% of the normal revenue from the sale of stamps and stationery, less the nominal cost of printing of the stamps and stationery that was borne by Panama. It was a great deal for Panama, but not so great for the Canal Zone Post Office. The U.S. government abrogated the treaty effective June 30, 1924 but overprints on Panama stationery could be used until August 31, 1924. In August the use of overprinted stationery was extended indefinitely.

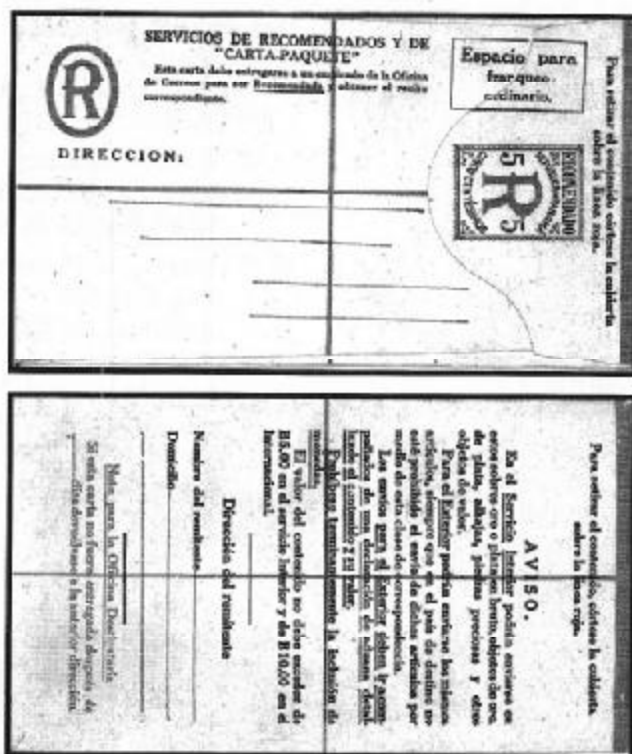


Fig. 1 Panama Registration Envelope, small size (165 x 95mm)

* This article was previously published in the UPSS journal *Postal Stationery* #336, July - August 2004.

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President's Report

by David Zemer

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Using Ebay to promote the Canal Zone Study Group Part 1, May 2002-May 2003

In my first report as president, I mentioned that the CZSG had been using Ebay to increase its membership. As it has evolved into being an important method of communication with our members and other collectors as well as a recruitment tool, I will give a more detailed overview of how it began and is used today.

Several years ago I began to use Ebay to buy a wide variety of things. Most of the items that I have bought and continue to buy have been related to Panama and the Canal Zone and within these two areas the vast majority are stamps and covers. At the start of 2002 I wondered if Ebay could be a channel to reach people that might be interested in joining the two groups that specialize in these two

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**The Canal Zone
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Articles and information for publication should be sent to the Editor. Glossy photographs are desirable for figures of stamps or covers; however, enlarged high quality photocopies are sometimes acceptable. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds. If you need help, write, phone, or FAX the Editor. The author must advise the Editor if the article has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

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Canal Zone Study Group

**The award winning
CANAL ZONE
Rarities collection of
David J. Leeds
for sale at Public Auction**

October 1, 2004, New York City
by **Matthew Bennet**, Sale # 279

295 lots including a 5¢ type II wrong vignette error (Scott #40a) as well as a mint block of four of the 8¢ on 50¢ registration stamp (Scott #15), a choice mint 2¢ #47; Mt. Hope, rare postal stationery and much, much more.

For Catalogue contact:

Matthew Bennett, Inc.
800.638.4223 or view online at:
www.bennettstamps.com

Auctions by Jim Crumacker

The firm of Robert A. Siegel had some 35 Canal Zone lots, much of which were ex-Plas, in its "Rarities of the World" auction. Greg Manning Galleries had an April auction with over 100 Canal Zone lots. With a few odds and ends included, the second calendar quarter, April 1-June 30, 2004 was quite nice for Canal Zone material.

The total selling price, which is hammer plus commission, is given first and is followed by the catalog value, in parenthesis, from the 2004 Scott's Specialized Catalog.

1f, vert. pair, PANAMA reading up and down, 2 pairs in a block of 4: OG, H, F-VF \$3575 (\$4200) Siegel

2c, pair, one w/o CANAL ZONE ovpt., OG, H, F in bl. 6 w/ 5 normals \$7150 (\$6000) Siegel

10a, inverted overprint, OG, F-VF \$176 (\$225) Manning

12c, CANAL ZONE double, TG, HR, VF in a bl. 4 w/ margin, Stage 1 \$3850 (\$2800) Siegel

14d, CANAL antique, rose brown, no gum, VF+ in bl. 4 w/ 3 normals \$2420 (\$2120) Siegel

15 var., P NAMA (CZSG 15.3) TG, H, XF \$3850 (\$5000) Siegel

22a, horiz. pair, imperf. between, OG, H, XF \$1155 (\$1300) Ivy & Mader

22 var., ONE for ZONE, OG, H, XF \$109 (\$80) Weiss

24c, double overprint, TG, H, F \$311 (\$450) Weiss

26a, double overprint, one reading up, in margin str. of 3 w/ 26b, overprint up, and a normal stamp, ZONE on margin, mostly OG, HR, small thins \$8800 (\$7770) Siegel

33a, double overprint, OG, H, F \$230 (\$375) Weiss

36a, "10 cts." inverted, OG, H, VF \$286 (\$325) Manning

38 var., horiz. pair from bp., right stamp w/o ovpt., tied on small piece, rt. stamp w/ creases o/w F-VF \$3575 (\$n/a) Siegel

40a, with Cordoba portrait of 2c, used, F \$9350 (\$8750) Ivy & Mader

46a, overprint reading down, TG, H, barely F \$196 (\$375) Weiss

46c, ZONE double, sl. trop OG, H, F+ \$5500 (\$4250) Siegel

47, OG, H, F-VF \$4400 (\$3250) Siegel

48, OG, H, F-VF 1st. pr. \$403 (\$500) Weiss

52 var., horiz. pair from bp, left stamp w/o ovpt., no gum, minor gum soak, VF+ \$2970 (\$n/a) Siegel

53, OG/TG, H, XF \$86 (\$110) Weiss

56a, double overprint, OG, H, VF \$518 (\$600) Weiss

56a, double overprint, OG, H, F-VF

w/ margin \$798 (\$600) Rumsey

59, OG, H, F-VF \$127 (\$160) Weiss

69 var., 10c unissued Arms (CZSG 69.B), OG, H, F-VF \$219 (\$350) Weiss

85a, ZONE ZONE, OG/TG, H, F in bl. 9 w/ 8 normals \$460 (\$648) Weiss

87a, ZONE ZONE, sl. trop. OG, HR, in margin bl. 12 w/ 11 normals \$2860 (\$3385) Siegel

102a, booklet pane of 6, handmade, OG, NH, F \$5225 (\$6500) Siegel

J3, OG, H, VF \$1100 (\$850) Ivy & Mader

J7, OG, H, barely F \$81 (\$110) Weiss

The name and addresses of these few auction houses are shown below

Ivy & Mader Philatelic Auctions, Inc.
775 Passaic Ave.
West Caldwell, NJ 07006

Greg Manning Galleries
775 Passaic Ave.
West Caldwell, NJ 07006

Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions
1255 Post St., Suite 1100
San Francisco, CA 94109

Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc.
60 East 56th St., 4th floor
New York, NY 10022

Weiss Auctions
PO Box 5358
Bethlehem, PA 18015

Elmer A. Brink, CZSG No. 0023

May 14, 1909 - May 10, 2004

Elmer Brink was one of the founding members of the CZSG. I first became acquainted with Elmer in 1976 when I joined the CZSG and began collecting used postcards and Canal Zone postal history. We corresponded for a number of years, and I was finally honored with an invitation to his and his wife's home in South Quincy, Illinois.

While Elmer's house was modest, his collection was magnificent. He brought out volume after volume of stamps and covers. I was astounded at both the quality and the quantity of the material. A full day of philatelic pleasure was provided via his first issue material, rare town markings and the abundance of error and

variety stamps. What made it doubly interesting was that Elmer could remember where he had found or purchased most of the material. His large board of perf P stamps (including a partial pane of #48) was found in a tin box in a small stamp store on Nassau Street. Elmer's postage due postal history, was primarily obtained from Frank E. Greene (who was a philatelic "dumpster" diver who managed to save hundreds of construction era covers from the dust bin. And his unique copy of Scott No. 7 (I can't remember which stamp but it is a one of kind overprint error on a Panama issue) that was found in a large lot of stamps purchased at auction - overlooked by all of the other Canal Zone collectors who attended. As a relatively young collector, I was somewhat envious of the days when one

could find such treasures in the hands of unknowledgeable dealers.

As the years passed Elmer and I stayed in contact, and he was kind enough to sell me some of his duplicate postage due covers (he was insistent that I pay "full Scott" even though he knew that they were worth more). With each Study Group sale that had one of Elmer's #48 perf P stamps, I would remember that day in Illinois. Elmer was an old school collector who took pleasure not only in his collection, but also in those of others. He was also a person who was willing to share information with novice collectors. His death is a great loss to the Canal Zone Study Group. Our sincere condolences to his remaining family.

Brad Wilde

Canal Zone 1918 Registration Envelopes

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Panama registration envelopes (Fig. 1) and (Fig. 2) were printed by the American Bank Note Company on heavy, unwatermarked, cream-colored paper that is lined on the inside with vertical and horizontal threads, which makes tearing open an almost impossible task – they had to be cut open. Both sizes were issued without gum on the flap. The indicia was a simple design, as shown here at full size.



Fig. 2 Panama Registration Envelope, large size (240 x 100mm)

One unusual feature of the envelope is the rectangular space above the registration stamp, with (in Spanish): **"Space for Ordinary Postage."** The space is printed half on the envelope and half on the flap, so that after the stamp is affixed and if the flap is opened by slicing a knife under the stamp, the stamp will be torn or cut in two.

- Front and Back, adjacent flap fold, in a vertical position: To retrieve the contents of the envelope, cut at the red line
- Front, at upper left: **SERVICE FOR REGISTRATION AND LETTER PACKETS** This letter must be given to an employee of the Post Office to be Registered and a receipt obtained.
- Back:

ANNOUNCEMENT

For Interior Service, you can enclose in this envelope gold or silver bullion, objects of gold, of silver, precious stones, and other objects of value.

For Exterior Service you can enclose the same articles, always if the destination country does not

prohibit the enclosure of these articles for sending in this class of mail.

The enclosures for the Exterior must be accompanied with a customs declaration detailing the contents and the value

Finally, the inclusion of money is prohibited.

The value of the contents must not exceed B5.00 for Interior service and B10.00 for International.

Address of the Sender

Name of the Sender

Address

Note for the receiving post office

If this envelope is not picked up in _ _ _ _ days, return to the above address.

These items have the "crossed lines" on front and back, the typical British indication for registration. This use is the only one noted on registration envelopes outside the British empire, and is a bit strange since they conveyed nothing special to North and South American post offices.

The registration envelopes were printed by letterpress. There were two colors used:

- o Red-orange, used for the "R" in the stamp, the crossed lines, the thick rectangle across the fold of the flap, and the last three lines on text on back.
- o Black, used for everything else.

The process must have been complicated, based on a recent examination of the finished products, and differed depending on the size. (Note: it is possible the blanks were rectangular, uncut sheets of paper that were cut with the envelope knife after the first printing step. Or the sheets could have been first cut into envelope blanks prior to the printing process.). The printing process was done in the following steps:

Small Size

1. The red printing was done on unfolded envelope blanks of paper (thereby printing what were to be front and back sides simultaneously.)
2. The vertical black text and the stamp design were then simultaneously printed.
3. The envelopes were folded
4. The horizontal black text on the front, including the box for adhesive stamps, was then printed.

Large Size

1. The red printing was done on unfolded envelope blanks, but probably because of the extremely large size of the unfolded envelope blank (over twenty-one inches) compared to the plate size, only the red printing on the back plus the red on the flap were printed at this stage.
2. All vertical black text and the stamp design were then simultaneously printed.
3. The envelopes were folded.
4. The red crossed lines on front and the encircled R were printed with the flap open.

continued on next page

5. The flap was closed, and the horizontal black text on the front, including the box for adhesive stamps was then printed.

The sequence can be deduced by a number of clues. The most telling is the presence of part of the back vertical red line over the top and/or bottom fold, ending a short distance on the front. If the red back printing had been done on prefolded envelopes, none of the line could bend around the top or bottom edge of the envelope. If the flap is unfolded on a mint example, there can be seen an albino imprint of the portion of the adhesive stamp box that shows on the body of the envelope, proving that that portion of the black printing was done with the flap folded. However, this imprint does not exist under the stamp impression, or under the vertical text adjacent the fold, proving these were printed on unfolded blanks. On the large size, the red text on the front (excluding the "R" on the flap which was not printed with the rest of the front) indents onto the back, clearly proving it was printed with the envelope prefolded. However, the back (and flap) red printing never indents the front, proving it was printed with the envelope unfolded.

Although registration envelopes were never issued in the continental U.S., the Canal Zone authorities decided to order a limited quantity from Panama in 1918.



Fig. 3 Canal Zone first issue, small size, UPSS R1



Fig. 4 Canal Zone overprint and surcharge on large size Panama Registration envelope. UPSS R2

Canal Zone authorities, believing that the registered envelopes would cut down on tampering and theft, ordered 9000 small (size 6) and 1000 large (size 10) envelopes. They were delivered in August 1918 to the Panama Canal Press at Mount Hope, Canal Zone, where they were

overprinted and surcharged. In the upper left quadrant of the front side, "Registered No. _____" was added. "10 cts." and "CANAL ZONE" were surcharged on the indicia (Figs. 3 & 4). The overprinting and surcharging were done in a single operation, with the flap in the closed position. If the flap of a mint example is lifted, the albino imprint of the surcharge can be seen. No changes were made to the back sides of envelopes.



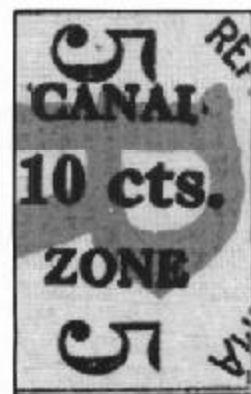
Fig. 5 ERP of first Canal Zone issue, used October 25, 1918

The Earliest Reported Postmark (ERP) of this issue is on a UPSS R1, shown in Figure 5. As for the large size of the first issue, mint and used examples are very rare (Fig. 6). It should be remembered that they were issued at a time when the collecting of postal stationery was rapidly declining with collectors, and most philatelic dealers were dropping the acquisition of new issue postal stationery. Another factor resulting in the miniscule quantities available today was World War I, which shut out the continental dealers.



Fig. 6 One of the very few used examples of R2.

It is interesting that the original two flanking numeral "5s" as well as the curved wording (in Spanish) at bottom for "Five Centavos" remained visible after the surcharging without, apparently, any consideration by the Canal Zone Post Office of possible confusion. This issue had a spacing of 8.0 mm between CANAL and ZONE. It is also characterized by broken letters, especially the foot of the "L", as shown in the illustration.



continued on next page

Two unique errors have been reported for the first issue. On one error the surcharge on the stamp reads, "0 cts." (Fig. 7). This was caused by some extraneous material on the envelope when it was surcharged, and not by missing type in the overprinting plate. This can be determined by the cut-off of a portion of the "C" of "CANAL", as noted by the arrow in the enlargement of the surcharge. The "Z" of ZONE also has the lower left foot slightly cut off.

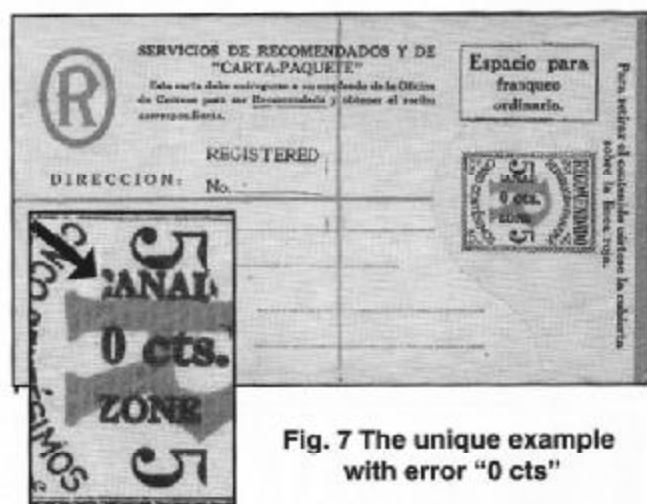


Fig. 7 The unique example with error "0 cts"



Fig. 8 Unique error with horizontal black text double

The second error consists of a double printing of all the horizontal black printing on the front of the envelope (Fig. 8). The error obviously occurred during the printing of the original Panama envelopes, and had no relation to the overprinting and surcharging for the Canal Zone.

A second printing was ordered from Panama and 16,000 small and 9,000 large envelopes were delivered. The Panama Canal press at Mount Hope again did the surcharging, but made some changes (Fig. 9). The most recognizable difference is in the surcharge. The space between "CANAL" and "ZONE" was widened from 8.0 mm to 9.3 mm as shown here.

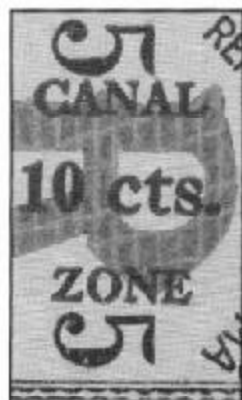


Fig. 9 Second Issue, UPSS R3

REGISTERED
REGISTERED

Fig. 10 Top: First Printing Bottom: Second Printing

Another easily recognizable difference between the first and second printings is in the overprint in the upper left quadrant. The letter "R" in "Registered" was changed to a different font (Fig 10). The first printing had many broken letters; and these were replaced in the second. As before, the back of the envelope was not overprinted even though the text is completely in Spanish.

A third order was placed for 25,000 small and 10,000 large envelopes in November 1919 (Fig 11). The American Bank Note Company (via the Panamanian authorities, presumably) was requested to supply envelopes with "CANAL ZONE" and "10" printed during the printing of the basic Panama envelopes, thereby saving the step of having to have them subsequently surcharged in the Zone. That is, in the stamp indicia, these have flanking "10s" replacing the original "5s" and "Diez" (Ten) replacing the original "Cinco" (five) at the bottom of the indicia. Illustrated here is the indicia. The order was received in December 1920. By this time, however, the Canal Zone postal authorities had concluded that these so-called inviolable registered envelopes had not reduced loss or pilferage, and they decided to not issue them.



Fig. 11 Third printing, large size (not issued)

continued on next page

The entire third shipment subsequently was returned to the Panama government in April 1921. Since none had been sold by the Zone post offices, Panama had received nothing for these items even though they had paid to have them printed. To salvage a loss, they decided to use up the registration envelopes in Panama. However, there was now "CANAL ZONE" on the indicia impression, clearly something Panama had to remove so as to properly identify the country of origin. Additionally, the denomination was now "10" rather than the correct "5".

The Panamanian Post Office therefore ordered the issue to be overprinted with solid black blocks to obliterate the two "10s" and "CANAL ZONE" (Figs 12, 13, & 14). The reversion of the denomination to five centavos value for use in Panama, was accomplished by surcharging flanking "5s" to the sides of the black blocks. Although the entire shipment was to be blocked out, three unoverprinted examples are known. These can be considered Essays (Fig. 11) for Canal Zone since the envelopes were prepared for use, but not issued, or they can be considered errors of Panama, namely "overprint omitted".

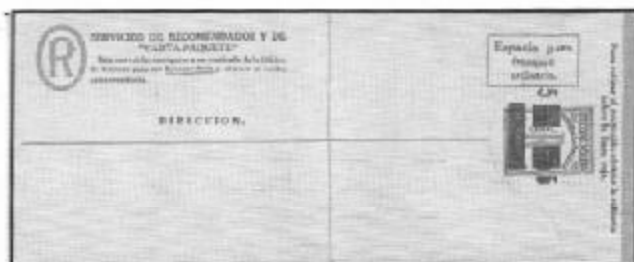


Fig. 12 Mint example of unissued Canal Zone large size Envelope overprinted for use in Panama H&G C2a



Fig. 13 Used example of unissued Canal Zone small size Registration Envelope overprinted for use in Panama H&G C2



Fig. 14 Used example of unissued Canal Zone large size Registration Envelope overprinted for use in Panama H&G C2a

References:

Plass, Gilbert – *Canal Zone Philatelist* 4th Quarter 1969

Gibbs, Irwin – *The Postal Stationery of the Canal Zone* 2003

Project 2000 by Jim Crumpacker

With this issue, we begin the series of updates, **Project 2000**, the modernization of some sections of the Check List published in *Canal Zone Stamps* in 1986.

The subject matter in this effort represents those Stamps actually sold at post offices in the Canal Zone. While we were able to derive from the SPECIMEN panes (auctioned at Christie's in 1990) much knowledge of what to look for in the way of new varieties; the information presented here emanates from proof that the issued stamp exists with the previously unlisted variety.

This particular column focuses on only three stamps. Canal Zone Scott Nos. 49-51 as shown. For additional study refer to CZP Whole No. 116, third quarter 1995, pages 26-29, some of which dealt with the SPECIMEN overprinted stamps from this series.

The number shown next to the quantity data is not a plate number. It is, in the American Bank Note Company nomenclature, the "order number" for the work. The "F" stands for "Foreign".

Further writeups will appear in CZP from time to time as continuations of Project 2000. Eventually we would like to publish the completed update in booklet form. Please write to the Editor or me should you have any questions or comments.

- | | | |
|----|-----|--|
| 49 | 12¢ | S.S. <i>Panama</i> in Culebra Cut, purple and black, 11¼ - 11½ mm spacing, issued Jan. 1917 (314,914) F-5082 |
| .1 | | 11 mm spacing |
| 50 | 15¢ | S.S. <i>Panama</i> in Culebra Cut, bright blue and black, 11¼ - 11½ mm spacing, issued Jan. 1917 (125,000 est.) F-5082 |
| .1 | | 11 mm spacing |
| 51 | 24¢ | S.S. <i>Cristobal</i> in Gatun Locks, yellow brown and black, 11¼ - 11½ mm spacing, issued Jan. 1917 (170,000 est.) F-5082 |
| .1 | | 11 mm spacing |

President's Report

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areas that interest me, the Colombia-Panama Philatelic Study Group, COPAPHIL, and the Canal Zone Study Group.

Over the years of buying on Ebay I had noticed that there seemed to be many buyers of Panama and Canal Zone philatelic material but I was unsure how many. Ebay makes it possible to see who bids and as each bidder has chosen a unique alias it seemed logical to track the different bidders. To start tracking bidders I decided to make a list of bidders for philatelic material from Panama and the Canal Zone. After a very short time it became obvious that there were more than a handful of different bidders and that a more formal method of tracking people interested in these two areas was necessary.

I had never been a seller on Ebay, only a buyer, so I began to familiarize myself with the Ebay rules and regulations thinking that I could list memberships. However it appeared at that time to be too complicated to be able to list memberships and collect membership fees so instead I decided to test the market another way.

With each item listed on Ebay there is a means to communicate with other sellers and buyers. To do so one only needs to click onto a seller or buyer's alias and Ebay sets up a message box that can be written in and then it is sent to that person's email address. I first sent a short message based on what each bidder was bidding on. If it were Panama stamps I mentioned that COPAPHIL existed and if it were Canal Zone stamps that the Canal Zone Study Group existed. I also wrote down the alias on a sheet of paper each time. After only a few days it became clear there were too many people bidding to keep track of and I set up a spreadsheet with the aliases so as not to send a message to the same person more than once. At the same time I began to write a message that encompassed both Panama and the Canal Zone philately. After a while I made a specialized message for each separate area, Colombia, Panama and the Canal Zone. I also decided to see if the collectors of Panama postcards were interested in

joining stamp groups and wrote another message, this time also mentioning the ICC, Isthmian Collectors' Club.

To my surprise, I found that the list of bidders continued to grow quickly. One year later I had contacted over 900 different bidders for Colombia, Panama, and Canal Zone philatelic materials and new bidders were still being added to my list.

During this time several of our new members joined through this effort – either by contacting me directly or being directed to our Secretary John Smith or to our website in the message to them.

However, there were several disadvantages to this approach. The first was the time that it took to search Ebay for a relevant stamp or cover. To be most effective I saved the link to any item that looked like it would attract non-members. After the bidding was completed I then did a manual comparison of each bidder's alias with the list of those that I had previously contacted. Then I send the message, which had grown to almost

a full page of text, to the new bidder. Later if I got a response to the message, I added part of the response to the spreadsheet. This procedure was both time-consuming and tedious. What had started out as a small test to see if there were people interested in my favorite hobbies had probably consumed over 150 hours in a year. The second disadvantage was that I was practicing a form of sending "spam" which in the internet world is equivalent to sending junk mail or telemarketing. Like junk mail in a mailbox, most spam gets deleted without ever being read. Like telephone soliciting it sometimes aggravates the person who has to go to the trouble of deleting the message.

Looking for a more effective way of reaching non-members, I then decided to become a "seller" on Ebay. This approach has proven to be a much more efficient use of my time and created an effective alternative channel to publicize Canal Zone philately. In a future issue of the CZP I will cover this method in more detail.

CANAL ZONE STUDY GROUP FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 2003

Revenue:	2003 Dues earned	\$ 8,945
	Sales of CZSG publications	470
	Advertisements in CZP	638
	Mail Sale - Gross proceeds	30,285
	Contribution - unreimbursed Mail Sale expenses	900
	Interest on checking (NOW) account	498
	Total revenue	41,736
Expenses:	CZP - printing (4 issues), postage, editorial	8,866
	Mail Sale expenses (\$5,185) & payments to sellers	33,04
	Postal Stationery Catalog	4,000
	Membership, publicity, administration	1,321
	Advertisements - Amos, APS	571
	Total expenses	47,807
	Revenue over (under) expenses for the year	(6,071)
Net assets as of:		
	1 January	88,106
	31 December 2003: Cash in NOW account	\$ 90,049
	Less 2004 dues received in advance	(8,014)
		\$ 82,035

As of December 31, there were no outstanding unrecorded bills. Dues are reported as income in the year to which they relate. Proceeds from and expenses of the Mail Sale are reported in the year the sale closes. No amounts are recorded for the value of time spent by board members, officers, manager of the mail sale, and other volunteers.

Richard F. Larkin, Treasurer

Fake Overprints on Canal Zone Stamps

by Richard D. Bates, Jr.

Overprinted U.S. Issues -
1924-1933

Part IV - Examples of Bogus Flat and Sharp A Lookalikes

In previous articles in this series, the characteristics of the flat A and sharp A Canal Zone overprints used on U.S. stamps were discussed, and examples of fakes that are known were illustrated. Those fakes were done well enough that they could, at least in many cases, be thought to be examples of genuine overprints. In this article, several fakes are illustrated that are done poorly enough that they are unlikely to fool anyone, and as such can be presented without resorting to the detailed measurements and descriptions to identify them "as bad" that have been needed to determine the more dangerous fakes.

These fakes are assembled in three groups. The first group consists of three examples that have overprints that do not even come close to looking right. Figure 1 shows a copy of U.S. No. 701, a rotary press stamp, with large block letters in violet reading CANAL ZONE added. This is not even close to the appearance of either the flat or sharp A overprints found on the flat plate 50 cent stamp U.S. No. 570 to produce Canal Zone Nos. 80 or 94. The same can be said for the overprint, erroneously applied vertically on the two-cent value U.S. No. 634 shown in Fig. 2.

The example in Fig. 3 illustrates a 2 cent U.S. coil stamp No. 599 with another overprint in the not even close category, consisting of mixed upper and lower case letters. All Canal Zone overprints consist of only upper case letters, and no U.S. coil stamps were overprinted for use in the Zone.

The second group of examples illustrated here are "bogus stamps"; they have fake overprints applied to U.S. stamps that were never overprinted for use in the Zone. The first of these shown in Fig. 4 has the overprint applied to the 25 cent value in the 1922-25 series U.S. No. 568. This deep



Fig. 1. 50 cent with large block letters



Fig. 2. Two cent with vertical large block letters



Fig. 3. Two cent with upper and lower case letters on coil stamp



Fig. 4. Bogus 25 cent Niagara Falls stamp never overprinted for use in Canal Zone

green stamp was never overprinted for use in the Zone. Figure 5 shows a 4 cent Martha Washington from the same series. This stamp also was never overprinted for use in the Zone. And the final example in Fig. 6 has the overprint applied to a 1½ cent Harding, but it is the wrong one, as U.S. No. 684 was not overprinted for Canal Zone use. The stamp overprinted to produce Canal Zone No. 72 was U.S. No. 553.

The third group contains examples that appear to be significant errors, but have identifiable characteristics that quickly point to these being fakes. The stamps illustrated in Figs. 7-9 are all rotary press examples, but needed to be flat plate examples to have a chance of being genuine. The first shown in Fig. 7 appears to be a ZONE only error, Scott No. 91a. In addition to the fact that genuine examples of No. 91 are flat plate stamps, genuine examples of 91a have the ZONE near the top of the stamp, because it is produced by an upward displacement of the overprint on the entire pane, with the top nine rows producing examples of 91c where the overprint reads ZONE CANAL, and the bottom row producing the ZONE only 91a stamps.

Figure 8 shows an example of a rotary press stamp that appears to be Scott. 84a. The two cent stamp that produces 84a is a flat plate stamp, U.S. 554, and the overprint is displaced to the bottom because it arises from a downward displacement on the entire pane, producing 90 examples of 84b with the overprint reading ZONE CANAL, and ten from the top row reading CANAL only. (Because two panes had the overprint shifted in a similar way, there can exist 180 examples of 84b and 20 examples of 84a.)

The example in Fig. 9 is a 15 cent Statue of Liberty with a poor example of a ZONE only overprint. It is like the examples in Figs. 7 and 8, in that the ZONE is in the normal position for the ZONE in CANAL ZONE on the genuine stamp, but these errors are generally displaced upward or downward to place the other word in question. This example, however, cannot

continued on next page



Fig. 5. Bogus 4 cent Martha Washington never overprinted for use in Canal Zone



Fig. 6. Fake overprint on incorrect 1 1/2-cent Harding stamp



7. Fake No. 91a ZONE only - incorrectly placed



Fig. 8. Fake No. 84b CANAL only



Fig. 9. Bogus ZONE only - on 15 cent Statue of Liberty

be genuine because it is applied to a rotary press stamp, and the 15 cent rotary press stamp was never overprinted for use in the Zone.

Most CANAL only or ZONE only examples are produced by a displacement of the overprint. There are some examples produced by a foldover or blockage to part of the overprint. In those cases the single word is not displaced.

The last example included in this article is shown in Fig. 10 and appears to be a stamp with CANAL only in a pair with a normal stamp. The stamps in Fig. 10 were produced on the rotary press, and are of the characteristic green color of Canal Zone No. 100, a light green compared to the flat plate stamps used to produce Canal Zone No. 71. A variety does exist on this stamp. CZ 100a has no overprint on the stamps on the bottom row and is collected in vertical pairs, one without overprint. The CANAL ZONE overprint on the example in Fig. 10, however, is like a flat A overprint, and the flat plate stamp with the flat A overprint does exist



Fig. 10. Fake No. 100a CANAL only

as CANAL only, Scott No. 71c. That variety comes from two panes on which the overprint was displaced, with 20 copies being from the top row with the CANAL only variety having the overprint displaced toward the bottom of the stamp, and the remaining 180 stamps from the second through tenth row with the overprint reading ZONE CANAL, No. 71d. So this stamp can be determined to be a fake of No. 71c without resorting to detailed measurements of the overprint and determination of the characteristics of the individual letters because 1) the overprint is applied to the wrong U.S. stamp, a rotary press stamp because it is perf. 11 x 10 1/2 and is the wrong color; 2) the CANAL only overprint is adjacent to a normal stamp instead of another CANAL only stamp as it should be; and 3) the CANAL overprint is in its normal position, while on genuine copies of 71c it is at the bottom.

Of course, on all these examples of bad overprints, careful study of the overprint reveals several characteristics of each that identify them as bad. But in the cases illustrated here, the process of identifying them as fakes is simpler as they fail even simple tests of their authenticity.

#31, Broken E

A used copy from a picture post card is shown of CZSG 31.A.4e. This is the early printing, Type I of the Portrait series in which the lower leg of the E of ZONE is mostly missing. There is a suggestion of a trace of ink at the right end of the leg.

D. J. Leeds



Request for Information

Elsewhere in this issue the first installment of **Project 2000** appears. Your help is requested to assure that the updated Check List is as good as it can be. Information is needed about Canal Zone Scott Nos. 31-69 and J4-J11C. Nos. 46-48 and 67, as Mount Hope printings, have no corresponding SPECIMEN sheets.

We are looking for the type of information which appeared with the publication of *Canal Zone Stamps* in 1986: spacing varieties, overprint shifts, broken letters from consistent positions, overprint misaligned, raised letters and the like.

You will note three new listings in the **Project 2000** column: CZSG 49.1, 50.1, and 51.1. These are simply spacing varieties. No plate positions are shown. A limited survey did not turn up any large multiple which would prove the spacing variety positions on the postally issued examples vis a vis the SPECIMEN sheets. In at least one case involving a different series the variety position did not carry over from SPECIMEN to issued stamp. Plate positions will be listed in the future when we can accurately do so.

Clear photocopies of large multiples or interesting singles, pairs, or strips from your collection of Canal Zone postage stamps would be useful, also of any pieces with engraved letters, marks, or numbers on the selvage.

Send anything you feel might be of help to: **Jim Crumpacker**, PO Box 1836, Las Vegas, NV 89125 or, send a computer scan to the Editor at: richard.spielberg@gte.net

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